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TELEGRAPHIC

According to the Act of Congress, in the year 1863, by J. S. THRASHER, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the Confederate States for the Northern District of Georgia.

FROM RICHMOND.
RICHMOND, Dec. 31, 1864.
No Yankee papers received yesterday or to-day. Heavy firing was heard in the direction of Dutch Gap this A. M. Congressional proceedings to-day unimportant.
No official news from any quarter.
A snow storm commenced this morning, the snow is still falling rapidly, but melting as it reaches the ground.
The soldier's New Year's dinner will be successful.

FROM THE UNITED STATES.
RICHMOND, Dec. 31, 1864.
The Baltimore American of the 29th and 30th, has been received to-night.
Official dispatches from Thomas represent his army still in pursuit of Hood's disorganized forces. Cheatham abandoned his ammunition train at Pulaski. Gen. Lee and Buford were both wounded.
At last accounts Hood was at Baldrige.
According to Washington telegrams, Sherman has communicated to the Secretary of War, his purpose to move up the Savannah river immediately after capture Augusta.
Admiral Wilkes has been reinstated by Lincoln.
Gold 417.

FROM PETERSBURG.
PETERSBURG, Jan. 1st, 1865.
Nothing has occurred in Richmond, the quiet on this line for some days past. The roads are in very bad condition and military movements impracticable. A Yankee picket post was surprised in front of Wilcox's Division yesterday and forty prisoners captured.
The soldiers of this army are looking forward with much interest to the new year's offering dinner by the people and are evidently much pleased at the movement. Their appetites are sharpened by reports of good things in store for them. The citizens of Petersburg subscribed between thirty-five and forty thousand dollars to the object.

FROM THE UNITED STATES.
RICHMOND, Jan. 1st, 1865.
The Baltimore American of the 30th, 31st, evening edition, has been received by flag of truce from bringing supplies or Yankee prisoners.
A special telegraph dated Columbia, Dec. 28th, P. M., says an escaped prisoner just arrived from Florence reports that the advance of Hood's army reached Florence, Ala., on the 21st. During the whole of next day his infantry was crossing the river. Forrest's force covered the enemy's retreat.
Despatches from Fortress Monroe had been received announcing the failure of the expedition against Wilmington though claiming that great damage was done to Fort Fisher and the capture of a company of the enemy outside of the Fort.
Torpedoes loaded with 300 tons of powder, was exploded on Friday morning within 300 yards of Fort Fisher.
Gold advanced and opened on Monday at 22 3/4.

FROM THE UNITED STATES—PORTER'S AND BUTLER'S REPORT OF THE ATTACK ON FORT FLORENCE—BURNING OF PARROT GUN ON SIX DECEMBER—THE FLEET RETURNED TO FORTRESS MONROE—FROM GEN. HOOD—YANKEE SOLDIERS DROWNED.
RICHMOND, Jan. 2d, 1865.
New York papers of the 30th ult., have been received.
The official report of Admiral Porter fills about three columns of the Times. That paper acknowledges the magnitude and failure of the expedition which has returned to Fortress Monroe. It says that hardly anything worth noting, from the initiation of the movement to its unfortunate close.
The explosion of two hundred and fifteen tons of powder, under the walls of the rebel fort, was a great spectacle, but, perfectly useless in fact, and the rebel garrison was not at all paralyzed.
The bombardment of the fort by the fleet was most unimposing and skillful, but Porter and Butler differ greatly as to its effects. They come the extraordinary fact of the bursting of the six hundred pounder Parrott guns on six different vessels, accompanied by painful casualties and loss of confidence. More important than all these there seems to have been no proper co-operation between the land and sea forces.
Admiral Lee telegraphs from Florence, Dec. 27th to the Navy Department, that Gen. Hood was crossing the river above Muscle Shoals, but the railroad to Corinth is in our possession, so that Hood could not get supplies by that route.
The steamer North America was lost off the Florida coast on the 21st ult., and two hundred Yankee soldiers drowned.
Gold 22 3/4.

PICKET TENNESSEE AND NORTH ALABAMA—GEN. HOOD'S ARMY, &c.
SELMA, ALA., Dec. 30th, 1864.
The reporter of this afternoon says that a well-known gentleman of Huntsville, who has been in the city since the arrival of Meridian on Tuesday afternoon, brings the following very gratifying intelligence from Hood at North Alabama.
Gen. Hood, on the eve of withdrawing from near Nashville, was attacked vigorously by the enemy, who massed a heavy force and threw it upon his centre, composed of Cheatham and Bates' divisions, when these veteran troops gave way. Gen. Hood then moved on Columbia, where it was a hotest day.
On Tuesday, the 26th, there was another fight, in which the enemy were badly whipped, losing one entire brigade of cavalry, and six hundred wagons.
The population of Middle Tennessee and North Alabama were thoroughly aroused, and every man and boy capable of bearing arms was hurrying to join our army. Ten companies were formed at Huntsville in a week. That place had been taken possession of by ten Yankee regiments from Point Peak, but Roddy had been ordered to retreat and hold it at all hazards.
Ten gunboats came up the Tennessee river and attempted to capture the Muscle Shoals at Decatur, but Roddy had attacked them, destroying one and probably another. Ten regulars were injured.
Forrest had been made a Lieutenant General.

LATER FROM THE UNITED STATES.
RICHMOND, Jan. 2d, 1865.
Baltimore papers of the 21st ult. have been received.
Stoneman has arrived at Nashville. He gives a highly embellished account of his raid in Southwest Virginia among the captives claimed is 2,000 horses, 1,000 mules and 2 rebel regiments together with their provisions. The latter he sent to Brownlow, as a Christmas gift. The works and lead works were rendered useless. Stoneman's losses were 2,000 killed, wounded and missing.
Porter's fleet did not return to Hampton Roads. A Washington telegram of the 21st, says there is no probability of the naval force under Porter discontinuing the bombardment, unless so directed by the government.
Butler returned to his headquarters on the James river on Wednesday.
The Savannah to the 26th ult. state that the rebels were being made to understand the retreat of the rebel army before it could reach Broad river. Business in Savannah had been resumed. Gen. Gray is military Governor and enforces order.
Lt. Col. Mulford will visit Richmond the coming week authorized to negotiate a new cartel for an exchange of prisoners.
A synopsis of the correspondence between the Brazilian Minister and Seward, relative to the seizure of the Plorantia is published. The former characterizes the seizure as an act of interference in derogation of the law of nations, and unfriendly and wrongful to the United States. The crew will be set at liberty to seek refuge where they may find it, with the hazard of re-capture when beyond the jurisdiction of his government.

MEETING OF MECHANICS

To the Mechanics of Richmond, Raleigh, Wilmington, Columbia, Charleston, Macon, Columbus, Montgomery, Selma and Mobile.
 We have held a meeting and memorialized Congress to pass a bill permanently exempting us from military service while engaged in our legitimate occupations, and the establishment of our respectability and usefulness to the army and country. You are requested to co-operate with us and forward memorial.
 A. P. LATT, Sec'y. AUGUSTA MECHANICS.

FROM THE UNITED STATES.
 Board of Supervisors of the City Council of New York have resolved to raise \$4,000,000 to pay \$1,000 bounty for the army.
 The steamer Clarissa, with 1024 barrels of Cotton arrived at Bermuda on the 23d, also the steamer Owl, with 700, and the Lamb with 1,800 barrels had arrived at the same port.
 Ex-Vice President Dallas died at Philadelphia on the 21st.
 Cold closed in New York on Saturday at 27 1/2.
 CONGRESS.
 Nothing of importance done in Congress to-day. The House was occupied in the discussion of the bill for the consolidation of reduced regiments into battalions and companies.
 FROM CHARLESTON.
 Official telegrams from Charleston say that the Federal raiders are reported to have sailed from the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, going westward. They left 40 wounded—Gen. Cholsen was badly wounded. The damage to the road will be repaired in about ten days.
 The enemy have landed in force on the South Carolina side of the Savannah river, and are driving in our pickets towards Hartsville.
 For the Journal.
 Mr. Editor:—
 You are quite right in your issue of to-day in supposing that the Richmond Enquirer is not an organ of the Confederate administration, and that it is not in consideration of the President, or the Cabinet, or the Congress. Especially is this true in regard to the wild suggestions contained in this issue for the conditional emancipation of our slaves. The editor of the Enquirer, I regret to say, has lost his own negroes by the war, and like the fox who had his tail cut off, he now desires everybody else to be placed in the same category.
 I happen to know that the President was approached by raiders as reported by an intelligent gentleman who desires to establish a first class newspaper, which should support the administration, and that the President, after thanking him for his good intentions, replied that while he wished to receive the support of the press of the country, he did not wish to have an organ devoted especially to his interests. He said no man was so wise or elevated, that he could not be benefited by mistakes and individual criticism, and that the doctrine of the press to be perfectly free to condemn or approve the acts of government according as they might deserve.
 In the issue of the 11th ult., you refer to the course of the Virginia press towards Gen. Bragg. The truth is, there is hardly a man in the civil or military service of the country who is not regarded with respect and honor. Bragg has been denounced or ridiculed by the Virginia press, and especially by a majority of the Richmond newspapers. General Bragg is a man of high character and high ability. He has escaped, simply because they were supposed not to be friends of the President. Who believes, after Early's defeat, that the President would have ordered the execution of Bragg, that if the President and Gen. Bragg had been Virginians, they would not have received the cordial support. Instead of the bitter denunciations of the Richmond press, I am surprised that newspaper men of other States have not seen through the selfish course of these Richmond gentry long ago.
 CAPT. FEAR.

Jan. 2nd, 1865.
 HEADQUARTERS 17TH N. C. VOL.,
 December 27th, 1864.
 EDITOR OF WILMINGTON JOURNAL.—
 Dear Sir:—Below I send you a list of casualties in the 17th N. C. Regiment, killed before or after the Wilmington, when you will please publish for the information of the parties interested.
 Company B—Killed—Private C. A. Gibbs. Wounded—None.
 Company F—Killed—Private H. W. Lawson. Wounded—Sergeant Latham, severely; Private B. B. Ainsie, severely; Private K. B. Ayers, badly; Serjants Corwisp, missing; Ezekiel Carlisle, wounded badly and missing; Hebertson, severely; Private W. W. Jones, severely; Newberry Whitehurst badly.
 Company B—Wounded Harrison, slightly wounded.
 Company I—Killed—None. Wounded—Caleb Webb, slightly.
 TOTAL IN REGIMENT.
 Killed, 1.
 Wounded, 1.
 Missing, 1.
 Respectfully your servant,
 E. H. DAVIS,
 Adj. 17th N. C. Vol.
 Raleigh Confederate please copy

From the Washington Chronicle.
 WILMINGTON AND ITS DEFENCES.
 Wilmington stands on the left back of the Cape Fear river, thirty-five miles from the ocean. The entrance to the river is obstructed by three bars, known as the Western, Main and New Inlet bars. Of the defences we have the annexed account.
 On Federal Point, the fort is well celebrated for its Confederacy. Its armament is unequalled in range or efficiency. It mounts about fifty guns, many of the heaviest Blakely rifles. Near it are a number of emplacements, called water batteries, all mounting guns of heavy calibre. Similar works exist upon the other side of the river, which mingle their fire with that of the fort. Together, these works command a distance of about five miles, three in each direction. There is a fortification a little further up the coast, near the light house, the guns of which cover the seaward approach to the New Inlet bar entrance. Near Fort Caswell, a battery placed upon an artificial sandhill threatens much annoyance to our fleet. Its guns are able to throw plunging shot, as well as projectiles, far out seaward.
 The entrance by the way of New Inlet is so situated and guarded, that vessels attempting to pass there by day or run by the night would be subjected to tremendous cross fire. Heavy frigates, whose draft of water precluded their crossing the bar, would in necessity, anchor outside or sail up and down the beach, or perhaps they will sail in a circle, as did Dupont's fleet at the capture of Fort Mifflin. By this method of defence, the Confederates keep their guns ready for the men fresh, and at the same time entirely in touch with the accuracy of the rebel fire. The ground on which the heavy vessels would fight is well over two miles from Fort Fisher, yet it is within effective range at a moderate elevation of the water. Fort Caswell, and opposite to Fort Fisher, there is said to exist a new water battery, mounting nine guns.
 The entrance by the western bar is also well guarded, and the approaches are defended in the most improved manner known to engineering science. The first works to be encountered going in that way, are situated on the point of land called the light-house point, where generally known how many guns are in position there, but undoubtedly there is a sufficient number to do a fleet much damage before they can be landed passed. On Bald Head, the Southern extremity of Smith's Island, is situated a small work whose guns are directed towards the entrance to the Cape Fear. Fort Caswell, built by the United States before the war. It is a work with five sides, three of the mounting guns, about sixty all told. This work has been strengthened recently, and is undoubtedly a formidable affair. Possibly the iron clads may open a breach in the work, but it is not likely to be of much service, located on Battery Island. On the right hand side of the river coming down, is Fort Johnson situated at Smithville, and about one and a half miles from Fort Caswell. Above this, at various points along the river, are said to be batteries of various sizes, mostly small and of little importance.
 A THRILLING HISTORICAL REMINISCENCE.
 It is related that during the progress of the Free Revolution the Girondins attempted to arrest the frightful massacres in which the Jacobins were terrified. The strife between the two parties was terrible. Marat, during the fall of his party told them to "make strike into the hearts of our foes." In the Convention the strike was made by the Girondins against the Jacobins, the Jacobins finally overawed the Girondins.

FROM DALTON.

lery. Of course, they were doomed to the guillotine.— When the sentence was pronounced Valze drew forth a dagger and drove it through his heart, falling lifeless to the ground. Scattered round to go to them a final funeral banquet and soon a large open table was covered with luxury and splendor. Vande of meat and wine were in abundance. Rich and rare flowers bloomed before them in vases, and "serants" moved about, waiting on the guests. The music was soft and the eloquence and brilliancy set around that table, taking their last repast and conversing, until night commenced eating aside her dark garb. "We shall stop to-morrow," said one, "after the fatigues of the day, to wake no more." "Death is the only comforter," said another. "No," responded Perich, "annihilation is not our destiny. These bodies perish, their thoughts live. To-morrow, in other words, we shall think, feel, act." "Death," said the eloquent Vergniaud, "is the greatest act of life. It introduces us to a noble existence.— Woe, if it is not, there would be something greater than God." * * *

"God will not suffer Vergniaud to ascend to-morrow the scaffold, but to justify and avenge him in future ages." Day had crept into the dawn, and some of the Girondists returned to the city. They had a list set about preparing last letters to friends and families. About four o'clock the executioners with their guards came in, and the long hair was cut from the heads, that it might not stand in the way of the axe. Poor Vergniaud, the first to die, turned the back of his neck to the guillotine. "Tell her," said he, "it is the only memorial of my love which I can transmit to her, and that my last thoughts in death were hers." Vergniaud sent his watch to his betrothed, with a few lines scratched thereon. Soon the Girondists were in the carts passing through the streets of the city. Many of them, while the countless thousands thronged the streets to take a last look. Loud and sonorous was the strain as they neared to scaffold.

Arriving, they all embraced it and then remained the church doors. The strains of the Marseillaise were still, only giving up the song as the head was severed from the body. There was no faltering, no weeping way; but as head after head passed into the basket the song grew more weak. The brave Vergniaud soon found himself alone. He stepped forward and moved slowly toward the guillotine, the back of his neck to the blade, having died away into a soft mellow sweetness. Looking upon the headless bodies of his numerous comrades below, he commenced new the strain:

Come, children of your country come,
The day of glory dawns on high;

and gave himself up to the executioner. A slight pause, the axe fell, the head passed into the basket, and the eloquent Vergniaud was mowed. This is about one of the most thrilling tragedies to be found in the annals of the French Revolution.

Peace and Slavery.

We have heard it frequently said that there are numbers of individuals throughout the country, and among them slaveholders, who, for the sake of peace, and for the purpose of reconciling the anti-slavery sentiment of the North, would be willing to enter upon a system of gradual emancipation. This, in our judgment, is a grave error, evincing a superficial and short-sighted view of the question. We hold that without slavery, as the substratum of society, democratic government is a failure, and the right of universal suffrage a humbug, and that the only way to emancipate slavery, we must, in order to preserve stable government, abolish democratic institutions with it.

To substitute a servile class for the present servile race will be suicidal, by building up denser and divisions in society wholly incompatible with free government. Such a system, by dividing the classes between the vast, numerous, and embodiment of ignorance of the country, will always exercise a controlling influence at the ballot box, and wrest the government from the hands of that superior intelligence which is absolutely necessary to administer and carry on government of any kind. It is a system of conservatism and enlightened statesmanship of the South that our old Government was indebted not only for its establishment, but for its long continuance, and it is to the institution of slavery we are indebted for this conservatism. In the South, it is only the superstructure of society or of country that is to be changed, and not the machinery of government, while in the North it is the substratum or lower and more ignorant classes that predominate and exercise a controlling influence. Let us, then, not think of giving up the institution of slavery unless we are prepared to give up free government with it.

As to the conciliation of European opinions in the emancipation of slavery, we regard also as a great mistake; nor would we so conciliate even if it could be done at so great a price. We doubt moreover whether we should gain the good opinion of European statesmen and the good will of the world, by such a sacrifice. The protest we have for the Negro, like that of the Yankee, is merely hypocritical. They have used the insinuation as an instrument for severing and destroying this once great republic of whose influence they stood in awe.— Why is it that while waging a systematic and unceasing warfare against slavery in Europe, they have never raised their voice against the same institution in Cuba, Mexico and the South American States? And if it be the system of slavery here that prevents them from recognizing our independence and entering into treaty stipulations with us, why is it that for the sake of a few millions of dollars they are willing to give the contrary above stated? If it were philanthropy merely that prompted their action, there are ample fields for its exercise outside of their Southern States.

No, it is not the system of slavery as it exists here against which their activity is directed, but it is or was the growing power of free institutions on this continent. They are afraid that the growing power of the American republic just as they dread the growing power of Russia on the Eastern continent, and when this is broken down or destroyed to their satisfaction, they will acknowledge our independence as well as soon with slavery as without it. He is a shallow thinker who supposes that he will gain a recognition of our independence by Europe, by the sacrifice of the rights of slavery and even if it could be, it is not worth the price demanded. As for ourselves, we regard the institution as the corner stone of our liberties, as the bulwark of free government, and shall value independence as worth but little without it.—*Appeal.*

OS PRATE.—The Washington Chronicle (19th) has a libel and credible editorial on the people of the South, entitled "Worthy Thought." After asking the question, if the people of the South are so tired of the war, why do they fight with such tenacity? It answers it by a reference to the social influences and their high sense of honor. "The South is not a gentle land, it is a noble land and no lady more fascinating. It closes as follows:

Personal honor was the absorbing passion of the Southerner's life. The standard may have been faulty, but was rigidly adhered to. Such men may be heartily sick of a strife, but they will not abandon those engaged in it. They may long for the close of the war, but they will not desert the front until they may feel more necessity for the dread onset of foreign battle-fields, but once on them they will conquer or die.

As deserters or willing captives, they know they will be ostracised from the homes of the friends they love when the contest is over. Hence the warrior will be encouraged despite death to fight to the end, and the soldier will be regarded as utterly helpless, or until such as are offered as they feel at liberty to accept.

Shall we deal with them as plucky, but erring brethren, whose sense of honor, defective as we may think it, must be respected and guarded? Or shall we undertake to regard them as lawless, defiant rebels, who are to be humbled, if not exterminated? Do we not want these outrageous men, then, enduring, high spirited men, to unite with us in laying broad and deep the foundations of a democratic society, and to throw all past prosperity, brilliant as it was, in the shade?

LINCOLN'S TRANSY.—The Catholic Bishop of Liverpool.

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